provision has been made in the next year's budget for the extension of supply mains and the installation of an additional engine in the Power House.

TRIVANDRUM TELEPHONE SCHEME.

33. The total expen liture on the scheme at the end of the current year is expected to be Rs 1·50 lakhs. The number of subscribers on the exchange has considerably increased since last year by the addition of 23 main subscribers and 30 extension phones. Further extensions and improvements are also in contemplation. The anticipated receipts for the current year are Rs 18,000 and the working expenses about Rs 12,000.

TRUNK TELEPHONE SCHEME.

34. It is now a few years since the Telephone Exchange at Alleppey with trunk communication to Cochin was installed by the Indian Telegraph Department, at the instance of this Government. Ever since, the several commercial organisations in the State have been requesting the Government for extending the line to Quilon and further south as it would help commerce to a great extent. With the Electrical Department of the State so far advanced, Government think that the facilities sought for should no more be delayed. They therefore propose to work out a comprehensive scheme for the installation of Telephone lines from Nagercoil to Trivandrum, Trivandrum to Quilon, and Quilon to Alleppey at which point it is proposed to be linked up with the Indian Telegraph Department line. The scheme also provides for a separate line for the public on the proposed Pallivasal Telephone line. There will in all be 285 miles of lines. All the lines will be constructed with double circuit, one for main outer connection and the other for way-side tapping. Treated teakwood poles will be used, being admittedly cheaper than iron poles and the line will be taken along roads to avoid way leave compensation. In regard to Pallivasal line there will be a great saving in supervision and working charges, as the line there could be added to the posts erected for the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project. Provision has been made in the scheme for connecting fifty subscribers each at Nagercoil and Quilon and one hundred in the various towns where transmission lines are constructed, including Anchal offices, en route. To effect savings under construction, staff and tools and plant, the entire work will be taken up in one stage, the estimated cost of the work, *viz.*, Rs 4·33 lakhs, being spread over three years. The provision made for the year 1111 is only Rs 1·50 lakhs.

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